

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A ~~polymeric~~ stent for use in the oral cavity, said stent being an elongate member and especially useful in surgical endoscopy and for the treatment of salivary gland ducts comprising: ~~an elongated tube, wherein the proximal end of said tube is having a funnel-like shape; and wherein said funnel further comprise at least one gorge, which enables the suturing of said stent to said duct~~

an enlarged proximal portion at a proximal end of the stent; and

a bore extending through said stent from said proximal end to a distal end of the stent;

said enlarged proximal portion comprising:

a proximal rim adapted for being located adjacent an oral cavity; and

at least one aperture other than said bore, radially inwardly spaced from said rim, and adapted for suturing said stent to said oral cavity, in use.

2. **(currently amended)** The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 1, said stent being adapted for implantation in a lumen of a salivary duct of the oral cavity, and said stent further comprising an anchoring arrangement for at least temporarily anchoring said stent with respect to said lumen~~having means to be at least temporary anchored inside the lumen of a salivary duct.~~

3. **(currently amended)** The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 2, wherein said anchoring arrangement comprises at least one wing-like flap having a free end spaced from a surface of the elongate member~~means to anchor said stent inside the lumen of the salivary gland duct is at least one wing-like flap.~~

4. **(currently amended)** The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein said enlarged proximal portion comprises a funnel-like form having a substantially continuous proximal rim~~comprising two wing-like flaps.~~

5. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 2, wherein said anchoring arrangement comprises a transversely enlarged portion formed on said elongate member adapted to be at least temporally anchored inside the lumen of a salivary duct, wherein the tube additionally comprises at least one extended portion on its width.

6. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent as defined in claim 5, wherein the ~~extended enlarged portion comprises an accordion-like member is an accordion-like member, as described in Figure 2A.~~

7. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent as defined in ~~claim 2~~claim 3, further comprising additionally comprising a plurality of flaps arranged on said elongate member, arranged in a circular array of folded flaps, as described in Figure 2C.

8. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 1, ~~in the length of approximately 20 to 65 mm~~ having an axial length of between about 20mm and about 65mm.

9. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 1, having an axial length of between about 32mm and about~~in the length of approximately 32 to 48 mm.~~

10. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent as defined in claim 1, wherein said bore comprises an internal diameter of between about 1.0mm and about~~the internal diameter of the elongated tube is in the range of approximately 1.0 to 4.5 mm.~~

11. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 1, wherein said bore comprises an internal diameter of between about 1.5mm and about~~the internal diameter of the elongated tube is in the range of approximately 1.5 to 3.0 mm.~~

12. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to ~~claim 1~~claim 4, wherein said enlarged proximal portion comprises an axial length of between about 1.0mm and about~~the length of the funnel like member is in the range of approximately 1.0 to 4.5 mm.~~

13. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 1, wherein the stent is made from a suitable polymeric material~~the internal diameter of the funnel-like member is in the range of approximately 1.0 to 4.5 mm.~~

14. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to ~~claim 1~~claim 13, wherein the stent is made from one of a porous or a non-porous polymeric raw material~~the tube is selected from a porous or a non-porous article, made by the method selected from knitting or weaving a polymeric sleeve; extruding, cast forming or press molding a polymeric raw material.~~

15. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 1, wherein the stent is made from one of a bio-stable and a bioabsorbable material adapted for at least one of local and suitable for either local or systemic delivery of compounds selected from at least one of drugs and other substances.

16. (currently amended) ~~he~~ ~~polymeric~~ stent according to ~~claim 14~~claim 15, wherein the stent comprises said compound, said compound comprising a drug to be delivered is selected from one or more biocides, steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, antiviral compounds, analgesics, local anesthetics, anticoagulants, antihypertensive substances, vitamins and contrast media.

17. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 15, wherein the stent comprises said compound, said compound comprising a biocide to be delivered is selected from cetylpyridinium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, chlorhexidine, cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, polyoxyethylene, nonylphenols, alkylaryl sulfonates, miconazole nitrate, metronidazole, trimethoprim, chloramphenicol, sulfamethoxazole ; cetamide or any effective antibiotic.

18. (currently amended) The ~~polymeric~~ stent according to claim 15, wherein the stent comprises said compound, said compound comprising a steroidal~~wherein the steroidal~~ anti-inflammatory agents to be delivered are selected from corticosteroids and any hydrocortisone containing compositions.

19. (currently amended) The polymeric stent according to claim 15, wherein the stent comprises said compound, said compound comprising a local anesthetic selected~~wherein the local anesthetic is selected~~ from lidocaine, adrenaline, ephedrine, epinephrine, aminophylline, and theophylline.

20. (currently amended) A stent system, comprising a stent according to claim 1 and a guidance member comprising a substantially rigid member adapted for being accommodated within said bore of the stent~~The polymeric stent according to claim 1, having means to be temporally anchor to said stent inside the lumen of the salivary gland duct to be treated, comprising a funnel with two gorges.~~

21. (currently amended) A polymeric stent adapted for implantation in a salivary gland duct of an oral cavity, said stent being an elongate member and comprising
an enlarged funnel-like proximal portion at a proximal end of the stent; and
a bore extending through said stent from said proximal end to a distal end of the stent;
said enlarged proximal portion comprising:
a proximal rim adapted for being located adjacent the oral cavity; and
two apertures adapted for suturing said stent to said oral cavity when said stent is implanted in a said salivary gland duct;
said elongate member comprising at least one wing-like flap and a plurality of axially folded flaps arranged in a circular array~~The polymeric stent according to claim 1, as described in figure 2.~~

22. (currently amended) A method for implanting the polymeric stent into the lumen of a salivary gland duct as defined in claim 1 and in any preceding claims, comprising; (a) inserting said stent into a salivary gland duct to be treated, such that all of the tube is located in said duct and such that the proximal side of said stent is located inside the oral cavity; (b) suturing said stent to the mucosa and/or the periosteum near the lingual side of the anterior teeth by means of sutures, wherein said sutures are sutured to at least one gorge located in the funnel
a stent into the lumen of a salivary gland duct of an oral cavity, said method comprising:

(a) providing a suitable stent, said stent being an elongate member and comprising an enlarged proximal portion at a proximal end of the stent, and a bore extending through said stent

from said proximal end to a distal end of the stent, said enlarged proximal portion comprising a proximal rim adapted for being located adjacent said oral cavity and at least one aperture other than said bore, radially inwardly spaced from said rim, and adapted for suturing said stent to said oral cavity,

(b) inserting said stent into said salivary gland duct, such that said elongate member is accommodated in said duct and such that said enlarged proximal portion is located inside the oral cavity;

(c) suturing said stent to at least one of a mucosa and a periosteum near a lingual side of anterior teeth of said oral cavity by means of sutures, wherein said sutures are sutured to at least one said aperture.

23. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 22, wherein said stent further comprises a guidance member comprising a substantially rigid member reversibly received within said bore of the stent, step (b) being facilitated by said guidance member, the method further comprising the step of removing said guidance prior to step (c) wherein the implanting the polymeric stent into the lumen of a salivary gland duct as defined in claim 1 and in any preceding claims, is aided with a relatively rigid guidance member, comprising;

~~(a) inserting an effective portion of said guidance member into the tube of the stent at its proximal end;~~

~~(b) inserting said stent into a salivary gland duct to be treated, such that all of the tube is located in said duct and such that the proximal side of said stent is located inside the oral cavity;~~

~~(c) removing said guidance member from the stent;~~

~~(d) suturing said stent to the mucosa and/or the periosteum near the lingual side of the anterior teeth by means of sutures, wherein said sutures are sutured to at least one gorge located in the funnel.~~

24. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 22, applied especially useful for the treatment of strictures, kinks, and any pathology of the salivary gland duct.

25. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 22, wherein said method is applied to an oral cavity~~especially useful for practice along and~~ after a surgical endoscopy in said oral cavity.

26. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 22, wherein said stent is removed from said duct after~~treatment by the polymeric stent defined in claim 1 and in preceding claims~~ is for a period of approximately two weeks.

27. **(new)** The stent as defined in claim 7, wherein said flaps are axially folded and arranged in a circular array.

28. **(new)** The method according to claim 22, wherein the stent is adapted for at least one of local and systemic delivery of compounds selected from at least one of drugs and other substances, and the method further comprises the step of delivering said compounds to the oral cavity.

29. **(new)** The method according to claim 28, wherein said compound comprises any one of:

(A) a drug selected from one or more biocides, steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, antiviral compound, analgesics, local anesthetics, anticoagulants, antihypertensive substances, vitamins and contrast media;

(B) a biocide selected from cetylpyridinium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, chlorhexidine, cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, polyoxyethylene, nonylphenols, alkylaryl sulfonates, miconazole nitrate, metronidazole, trimethoprim, chloramphenicol, sulfamethoxazole; cetramide or any effective antibiotic;

(C) a steroidal anti-inflammatory agents to be delivered are selected from corticosteroids and any hydrocortisone containing compositions; and

(D) a local anesthetic selected from lidocaine, adrenaline, ephedrine, epinephrine, aminophylline, and theophylline.

30. (new) The stent according to claim 13, wherein the stent is made from any one of: poly-L-lactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polyanhydride, polyphosphate ester, polyurethanes, polyethylene.